



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
02.01.2004 Bulletin 2004/01

(51) Int Cl.7: **G06F 17/60**, G06F 17/30,
G06F 19/00

(43) Date of publication A2:
20.02.2002 Bulletin 2002/08

(21) Application number: **01306921.6**

(22) Date of filing: **14.08.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **15.08.2000 US 640169**

(71) Applicant: **ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-2399 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- **Boyce, Scott D.**
North Wales, PA 19454 (US)
- **Khanna, Vijay K.**
Holland, PA 18966 (US)
- **Shervin, Carl R.**
Warrington, PA 18976 (US)
- **Stevens, Rita W.**
Glenside, PA 19038 (US)

- **Barrett, James H.**
Feasterville, PA 19053 (US)
- **Kirk, Andrea B.**
Ivyland, PA 18974 (US)
- **Watson, William Martin, Jr.**
Hilltown, PA 18927 (US)
- **Mehta, Mukul M.**
Westlake, OH 44145 (US)
- **Corn, Jordan M.**
Hamilton Square, NJ (US)
- **Petro, Anthony George**
North Wales, PA 19454 (US)
- **Wood, Robert S.**
Holland, PA 18966 (US)

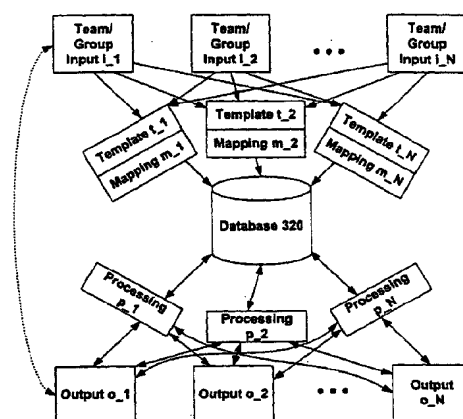
(74) Representative: **Jackson, Richard Eric et al**
Carpmaels & Ransford,
43 Bloomsbury Square
London WC1A 2RA (GB)

(54) **Flexible system and method for standardizing communications and decision-making across multiple business processes**

(57) A technique and system are provided whereby modeling of decision-making in a business process, such as research and development, sales, accounting, engineering and human resources activities, is computer network-enabled whereby data communications, storage and processing of business process data is standardized. Automatic or manual inputs for a business process are standardized and updated centrally and continuously and automatically or manually input. Outputs or reports generated from the business process data storage may be automatically generated according to preset criteria or generated upon request. Because all of the processes are centrally managed, e.g., through a network, a plurality of business processes may be collectively or retrospectively analyzed e.g., to assess the accuracy of assumptions used during the progression of the processes. A virtual office is provided whereby members can enter data, information, documents and the like, which may be done on or off-line. Efficient progression of individual business processes, as well as ef-

fective management of a business process portfolio, e.g., optimizing of resource allocation, is thus achieved.

FIG. 3





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 6921

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
| X | US 5 995 980 A (OLSON JACK E ET AL) 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) * column 3, line 33 - column 5, line 4 * * column 6, line 1 - column 8, line 52 * --- | 1-34 | G06F17/60 G06F17/30 G06F19/00 |
| X | US 5 987 103 A (MARTINO ROCCO L) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16) * abstract * * column 2, line 30 - line 51 * * column 7, line 18 - column 8, line 43 * * column 13, line 39 - column 16, line 11 * --- | 1-34 | |
| X | EP 0 971 327 A (CITIBANK NA) 12 January 2000 (2000-01-12) * the whole document * --- | 1-34 | |
| X | US 5 848 400 A (CHANG SHEUELING S) 8 December 1998 (1998-12-08) * column 3, line 51 - column 9, line 65 * --- | 1-34 | |
| X | US 5 410 646 A (TONDEVOLD BARRIE R ET AL) 25 April 1995 (1995-04-25) * column 5, line 20 - line 32; claims 1-6 * --- | 1-6,14, 18,20,22 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G06F |
| X | US 5 301 320 A (MCATEE JOHN D ET AL) 5 April 1994 (1994-04-05) * the whole document * --- | 1,14,18, 20,22 | |
| X | WO 98 42173 A (LAHTI SEPPA ENSIO ; TELAMA SAMI PEKKA (FI); FD FINANSSIDATA OY (FI)) 1 October 1998 (1998-10-01) * the whole document * ----- | 1,14,18, 20,22 | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search MUNICH | | Date of completion of the search 4 November 2003 | Examiner Lavin Liermo, J |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 30 6921

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

04-11-2003

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 5995980 | A | 30-11-1999 | NONE | |
| US 5987103 | A | 16-11-1999 | US 5805676 A | 08-09-1998 |
| | | | US 6574314 B1 | 03-06-2003 |
| | | | CA 2221853 A1 | 21-11-1996 |
| | | | EP 0886954 A1 | 30-12-1998 |
| | | | WO 9637070 A1 | 21-11-1996 |
| | | | US 6044382 A | 28-03-2000 |
| EP 0971327 | A | 12-01-2000 | CN 1245370 A | 23-02-2000 |
| | | | EP 0971327 A2 | 12-01-2000 |
| US 5848400 | A | 08-12-1998 | US 5884288 A | 16-03-1999 |
| US 5410646 | A | 25-04-1995 | JP 5303531 A | 16-11-1993 |
| US 5301320 | A | 05-04-1994 | NONE | |
| WO 9842173 | A | 01-10-1998 | FI 971224 A | 25-09-1998 |
| | | | AU 6501998 A | 20-10-1998 |
| | | | EP 0972275 A2 | 19-01-2000 |
| | | | WO 9842173 A2 | 01-10-1998 |